

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): In a financial transaction system capable of using at least one limited use credit card number ~~that is,~~ which is associated with a master account number of a customer and deactivated upon a use-triggered condition which occurs subsequent to assignment of the at least one limited use credit card number, a method of ~~conducting~~ processing a transaction ~~involving~~ initiated by a customer presenting the limited use credit card number to a merchant, the method comprising the steps of:

~~initiating a transaction by a customer presenting a limited use credit card number to a merchant;~~

~~routing~~ receiving in a central processing system said limited use credit card number ~~to a central processing system~~ routed from the merchant; and

determining whether said limited use credit card number has been deactivated because at least one use-triggered condition has been satisfied.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the limited credit card number is linked to an organization selected from a group consisting of: a utility, a public network service provider, a telephone company, a bank account, a prepaid account and a credit card issuer.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 9, further comprising transmitting a signal to the organization which is linked to the limited use credit card number, the signal including original transaction details if the limited use credit card number has not been deactivated;

performing a credit check ~~on the user~~ to determine whether authorization can be obtained against the limited use credit card number; and
transmitting a signal to the merchant with the results of the authorization determining step for the limited use credit card number.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 8, further comprising:
transmitting a signal to the merchant denying authorization ~~of the card number~~ if the limited use credit card number has been deactivated.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 8, ~~wherein the limited use credit card number is associated with a master credit card number~~, further comprising:

transmitting a signal to a ~~master credit card issuing~~ facility which issued the limited use credit card number, the signal including original transaction details but with the limited use credit card number remapped to be a master ~~credit card~~ account number if the limited use credit card number has not been deactivated;

determining whether authorization can be obtained against the master ~~credit card~~ account number;

remapping the results of the authorization determining step to the limited use credit card number for transmission to the merchant; and

transmitting a signal to the merchant with the results of the authorization determining step for the limited use credit card number.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, further comprising authorizing the transaction based on the results of the authorization determining step.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13, further comprising declining authorization of the transaction based on the results of the authorization determining step.

Claim 16 (currently amended): In a financial transaction system capable of using at least one limited use credit card number which is deactivated upon a use-triggered condition which occurs subsequent to assignment of the at least one credit card number and which is associated with the master account number of a customer, a method of conducting a settlement transaction comprising the steps of:

~~transmitting~~ receiving a signal transmitted from a merchant to a central processing system according to leading digits of the limited use card number;

remapping the limited use credit card number with the master ~~credit card~~ account number;

transmitting said remapped master ~~credit card~~ account number to issuer processing facility which issued the master ~~credit card~~ account number;

receiving payment for settling the transaction ~~by payment~~, if appropriate, to the central processing system;

remapping the master ~~credit card~~ account number back to the limited use credit card number; and

transmitting the limited use credit card number and payment information, if appropriate, to the merchant.

Claims 17-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (new): In a financial transaction system capable of using at least one limited use credit card number, which is deactivated upon a use-triggered condition which occurs subsequent to assignment of the at least one limited use credit card number and is associated with a master credit card number, a method of conducting a transaction involving the limited use credit card comprising the steps of:

initiating a transaction by a customer presenting a limited use credit card number to a merchant;

routing said limited use credit card number to a central processing system;
and

determining whether said limited use credit card number has been deactivated because at least one use-triggered condition has been satisfied:

transmitting a signal to a master credit card issuing facility which issued the limited use credit card number, the signal including original transaction details but with the limited use credit card number remapped to be the master credit card number if the limited use credit card number has not been deactivated;

determining whether authorization can be obtained against the master credit card number;

remapping the results of the authorization determining step to the limited use credit card number for transmission to the merchant; and

transmitting a signal to the merchant with the results of the authorization determining step for the limited use credit card number.

Claim 30 (new): The method of claim 8, wherein the master account number is a master credit card account number.

Claim 31 (new): The method of claim 8, wherein the use-triggered condition is satisfied when a predetermined number of uses of the limited use credit card number is reached.

Claim 32 (new): The method of claim 31, wherein the predetermined number is one.

Claim 33 (new): The method of claim 8, wherein a limited use associated with the limited use credit card number permits multiple transactions, and the use-triggered condition is satisfied when the aggregate value of the transactions exceeds a predetermined sum.

Claim 34 (new): The method of claim 8, wherein a limited use associated with the limited use credit card number limits use of the card to a specific class of use.

Claim 35 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein the master account number is a master credit card account number.

Claim 36 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein the use-triggered condition is satisfied when a predetermined number of uses of the limited use credit card number is reached.

Claim 37 (new): The method of claim 36, wherein the predetermined number is one.

Claim 38 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein a limited use associated with the limited use credit card number permits multiple transactions, and the use-triggered condition is satisfied when the aggregate value of the transactions exceeds a predetermined sum.

Claim 39 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein a limited use associated with the limited use credit card number limits use of the card to a specific class of use.